care management in the country. The treatment of cancer is either free or subsidized in the Government institutions. The Government has set up the "Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund" (CPF) to provide financial assistance to Below Poverty Line (BPL) Cancer patients for treatment of this chronic disease.

The fund allocation for the National Cancer Control Program pertaining to last three years is as under:-

Year	Allocation (Rs. in Crores)
2007-08	110.00
2008-09	105.00
2009-10	120.00

Curtailment in budgetary allocation for health schemes

†*499. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made curtailment in health budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of health-schemes in respect of which budget has been curtailed; and

(d) whether Government has made an assessment of the effects of curtailment in health budget on human resource development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) no curtailment has been made in the health budget. Rather, there is a steady increase in the allocation for the entire health sector over the years as given below:-

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
2006-07	11688.00	1322.55	13010.55
2007-08	14363.00	1491.88	15854.88
2008-09	16534.00	1589.00	18123.00
2009-10	19534.00	3107.33	22641.33

Difference between consumer purchase price and producers' selling price

†*500. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is fact that there is a huge difference between consumer purchase price and producer's selling price of essential daily use consumer commodities in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the average minimum and maximum difference in the first quarter of the years 2008-09 and 2009-10; and

(c) whether this difference has caused high inflation and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The difference between producer's price and consumer's price of essential commodities vary from commodity to commodity and location. Wholesale and retail prices are collected on a weekly/daily basis. Any large differences between the wholesale and retail prices are brought to the Notice of the respective State Governments. The wholesale and retail prices are mainly determined by market forces of supply and demand. Difference in wholesale price and retail price of essential commodities is mainly due to (i) transportation and handling costs (ii) packaging and other marketing expenses at retail, (iii) retailers mark-up and (iv) various taxes levied by different State Governments e.g. octroi duty.

———————

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Empowerment of women in animal husbandry and dairy sector

†3656. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme for empowerment of women in animal husbandry and dairy sector;

(b) whether women have any contribution in the field of fish, milk and food and they also remain forerunner in dairy cooperative; and

(c) if so, the level at which Government is helping them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Women are actively involved in allied fisheries activities like seed collection, fishing and juvenile fishes, collection of mussels, sea weeds, fish marketing, fish processing and product development etc.

Under the Central Sponsored Scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations, Central financial assistance to the tune 75% of the product cost is provided to fisherwomen/fishermen cooperatives, self help groups of women for creation of post harvest infrastructure facilities with a view to empowering the women.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.